904 NW 34th st. Corvalling On 97338 Mar. 7, 2000 MAR 29 A10:25

Ms. Donna Shalala Health & H.,man Services Secy 200 Independence AV SW Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secy. Shalala:

I am horrified to find that irradiated meat will be placed on the shelves with no or obscure labeling.

Are those of us who intend to avoid nuked meat to give up meat and meat products entirely since the labeling may be hidden or small or, in some cases, absent?

No doubt, this USDA and FDA decision will mean dirtier meat since other disease-carrying organisms will be killed by radiation.

I have contacted WINCO, the primary food store in this area, and they report that no meats are yet irradiated but, when they are, the store will not be separating treated and untreated meat, so there will be no way to avoid it. The same is true with luncheon meat and other meat products.

That leaves me no recourse but to reduce my usual purchases of meat and poultry to a bare minimum for health reasons.

I would have thought the U.S. government would protect its citizens but apparently not. With bioengineered food and irradiated meat and toxics in inedibles, this country is becoming a killing field for citizens.

Sincerely,

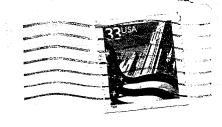
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Jeanne Riha 904 NW 34<sup>th</sup> St Corvallis, OR 97330





Secy. Donna Shalala US Dept. of Health & Human Services 200 Independence av. SW Washington DC 20201

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